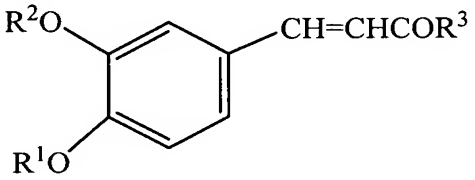
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R^3 represents a hydroxyl group, or an ~~amide bond residue derived from a water soluble~~ amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, cystine, methionine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine and histidine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where R^3 is a hydroxyl group, one of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, while the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, and

wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from C_{1-40} alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 8: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

Claims 9 - 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11: (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein R^3 is an ~~amide bond residue derived from a water soluble~~ amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, cystine, methionine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine and histidine.

Claim 12: (Canceled)

Claim 13: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 14: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 15: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is orally.

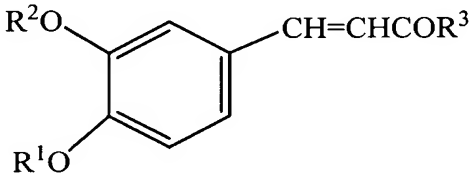
Claim 16: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 17: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 18: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 19: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is parenterally.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R^3

represents a hydroxyl group, or an amino acid residue ~~amide bond residue~~ selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, cystine, methionine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine and histidine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where R^3 is a hydroxyl group, one of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, while the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, and

wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claim 21: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from C_{1-40} alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 22: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

Claims 23 – 24: (Canceled)

Claim 25: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 26: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 27: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein said administering is orally.

Claim 28: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 29: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 30: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 31: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein said administering is parenterally.